UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/706
S/2000/20
14 January 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 50
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 12 January 2000 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my annual report on Afghanistan (A/54/536-S/1999/1145) submitted on 16 November 1999 to the General Assembly and the Security Council. In the observations and conclusions (sect. VIII) of the report, I stated:

> "Following a careful review of recent developments, my Special Envoy and I have reached the conclusion that given the lack of progress achieved so far, his activities should be 'frozen' until such time as circumstances change to justify his renewed intervention.
>
> "The Special Mission, on the other hand, will assume the primary role in conducting United Nations peacemaking activities in Afghanistan. It is my intention to appoint a substantive Head of the Mission at the Assistant Secretary-General level."

In its resolution 54/189 A, adopted on 17 December 1999, the General Assembly endorsed my observations and recommendations in the report and expressed support for my intention to "strengthen the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to assuring its primary role in conducting United Nations peacemaking activities in Afghanistan, in particular by appointing a new Head of Mission, by progressively moving its head office to Kabul and by increasing its presence in neighbouring countries".

I remain convinced of the need to strengthen the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, which is now playing the primary role in conducting the United Nations peacemaking activities in Afghanistan. I have therefore decided

to appoint Mr. Francesc Vendrell as my Personal Representative and Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN